

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOE SILVA,

Petitioner,

v.

UNKNOWN,

Respondent.

No. 2:24-cv-0618 DJC AC P

**NOTICE TO PRO SE HABEAS
PETITIONER REGARDING
EXHAUSTION**

Respondent has filed a motion to dismiss your petition on the ground that some of your claims are unexhausted. ECF No. 19. Federal law requires any habeas claim to be presented first to the state courts in order to correct any constitutional error. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A); see also Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 515-16 (1982) (explaining why federal habeas petitioners must exhaust claim by giving state courts the first opportunity to correct constitutional error); O’Sullivan v. Boerckel, 526 U.S. 838, 845 (1999) (explaining that exhaustion requires the completion of “one complete round” of state court review).

If you have not yet presented all of your claims to the highest state court, you may request the federal court to place your federal habeas petition on hold while you return to state court(s) in order to fully exhaust your claim(s). This is referred to as a “stay and abeyance.” Federal law provides for two very different types of a stay and abeyance. Any motion you file for a stay should specify which type of stay you are seeking.

1 The first type of a stay is referred to as a “Rhines” stay. See Rhines v. Weber, 544 U.S.
2 269, 278 (2005). The court may stay a habeas petition containing exhausted and non-exhausted
3 claims if petitioner demonstrates (1) good cause for the failure to previously exhaust the claims in
4 state court, (2) the claims at issue potentially have merit, and (3) petitioner has been diligent in
5 pursuing relief. Rhines, 544 U.S. at 277-78; see also Mena v. Long, 813 F.3d 907, 910-12 (9th
6 Cir. 2016) (extending the Rhines stay and abeyance procedure to federal habeas petitions that are
7 wholly unexhausted). You should address all three of these factors if you are requesting a Rhines
8 stay. If the court grants your request for a Rhines stay, the entire federal habeas petition including
9 the unexhausted claim(s) will be put on hold. It does not require you to file any amended federal
10 habeas petition.

11 The second type of a stay is referred to as a “Kelly” stay. Under Kelly v. Small, 315 F.3d
12 1063 (9th Cir. 2003), a stay and abeyance involves the following three-step process: (1) the
13 petitioner amends his petition to delete any unexhausted claims; (2) the court stays and holds in
14 abeyance the amended, fully exhausted petition, allowing petitioner the opportunity to return to
15 state court to exhaust the deleted claims; and, (3) petitioner later amends his petition and re-
16 attaches the newly-exhausted claims to the original petition. This is a more cumbersome
17 procedure than a Rhines stay because it requires you to file multiple amended federal habeas
18 petitions, but it does not require a petitioner to demonstrate good cause for the failure to exhaust.
19 See King v. Ryan, 564 F.3d 1133, 1140 (9th Cir. 2009). However, a Kelly stay runs the risk of
20 preventing review on the merits of any unexhausted claim for relief due to the one year statute of
21 limitations that governs federal habeas claims. See King, 564 F.3d at 1140-41 (emphasizing that
22 a “petitioner seeking to use the Kelly procedure will be able to amend his unexhausted claims
23 back into his federal petition once he has exhausted them **only** if those claims are determined to
24 be timely. Demonstrating timeliness will often be problematic under the now-applicable legal
25 principles.”) (emphasis added); see also 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(stating that a one year period of
26 limitation shall apply to all federal habeas petitions challenging a state court judgment).

27 Nothing in this notice prevents you from returning to state court while there is a pending
28 motion to dismiss your federal habeas petition based on lack of exhaustion. If the state court

1 issues a ruling on your constitutional claim(s) while your federal habeas case is pending, you
2 should file a “Notice of Exhaustion” in this court along with a copy of the state court ruling.

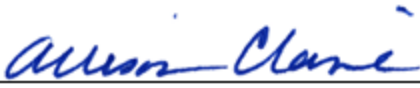
3 Even if you would like to request a stay of this case under either Rhines or Kelly, you are
4 still required to respond to the pending motion to dismiss. If chose to request a stay, you may do
5 so either as part of your response to the motion to dismiss or as a separate motion to stay.

6 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

7 1. Within thirty days of the service of this order, petitioner shall file a response to
8 respondent’s motion to dismiss. Failure to do so may result in a recommendation that this action
9 be dismissed.

10 2. Within thirty days of the service of this order, petitioner may file a motion for stay
11 under Rhines or Kelly, as set forth above.

12 DATED: December 19, 2024

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14 ALLISON CLAIRE
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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